

**VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2015 MEETING**

Present: Adria Arch, Juli Brazile, Adam Chapdelaine, Joe Curro (for Steven Byrne), Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, Mary Harrison, Doug Heim (Town Counsel), Jane Howard, Gordon Jamieson, Elizabeth Karpati, John Leone, Josh Lobel, Cheryl Miller, Brucie Moulton, Paul Schlichtman, Michael Stern..

Absent: Kathleen Bodie, Steven Byrne, Angela Olszewski.

Discussion of reorganizing the Standing Committee:

- A quorum is usually defined as one more than half of the members of a group. The Standing Committee now includes 22 defined positions, with three open and one person wearing two hats, leaving a group of 18 and making a quorum of 12 if based on positions and 10 if based on individuals. *[The number 9 was mentioned at the meeting but the lower number really works out to 10 whether the person with two hats is counted as 1 or 2 people.]* The Standing Committee has had few if any meetings where a quorum by either definition was present.
- One solution would be to recognize reality and establish two kinds of membership in the Standing Committee. One would consist of the people who meet regularly and carry on most of the work, mostly Task Group chairs/representatives and the appointees of the Selectmen etc. The other would be *ex officio* members who would not be expected to attend unless the meeting dealt with something within their area of responsibility, and who could participate outside the framework of evening meetings, e.g. the Town Manager could sit down during office hours with a couple of people working on the census survey and develop a set of questions for the survey. A quorum could be half or more of the first group, but maybe a lower number should be specified since the number of active task groups can vary.
- Joe Curro moved to include an article to redefine the Standing Committee into this year's warrant. Selectmen will start hearings on warrant articles in February. Doug Heim asked for suggestions and offered to draft appropriate language. Suggestions made: Define membership generically, e.g. "n" members appointed by Moderator, "n" by Selectmen, etc.; the Standing Committee could assign the chairmanship of a task group to each person. Standing Committee should be able to create and dissolve task groups without the need for a Town Meeting vote. Task groups need not correspond to the Town goals. Bruce suggested that some SC members could be assigned to "oversee" a goal without chairing a task group. Jane suggested that task groups with similar goals could be merged.
- *Ex officio* membership was discussed; the consensus appeared to be that it can remain as is.

Other business:

- The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with minor corrections.
- Task group structure should be a topic for future discussion
- Public Art requested \$150 for a workshop with a consultant; this was voted.
- Diversity will have a follow-up discussion on race and justice on February 28, 7 – 9 p.m., which will be shown on ACMI. It expects to spend \$100 on an honorarium and \$25 on flyers, out of up to \$400 already voted for this event.

- Sustainable Arlington wants \$100 for informational bookmarks for distribution at EcoFest; It may also have requests for precinct meetings and for a replacement bag for its tent.
- Census surveys: Already 2700 replies received for this year. Scanning them is a big job. If we went to an on-line survey, we would have to provide data entry for people without a computer. Skipping a year in 2016 or having a shorter, mostly informational survey was discussed. We decided to ask for money for a 4-page survey at the Jan. 26 CDBG hearing. We need to report on the use of CDBG money; Juli has drafted a report.
- Task group reports: Brucie is stepping down as the Environment representative. Diversity wants to start a Facebook page. According to the Town's communications policy this requires approval from the appropriate Board chair, in this case Carol Kowalski. The SC voted to support this request, recommending that the page should not be open to public posting.
- Joey reminded everyone about the need to retake the ethics quiz required by the Open Meeting law.